

## President's Message

**Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137**

59<sup>th</sup> President Illinois JCI Senate  
618-974-9599



*I prayed for you to have a blessed and fun Holiday Season. I hope you did. Our home is truly Blessed by your friendship.*

*I was invited to speak at the Illinois Jaycees Summer Social held at Camp New Hope on August 23. Many senators helped with the painting service project at camp.*

*On September 5, we had a North Social in Park Forest IL. Senators came out for Pizza and Cocktails. Great to see everyone.*

*September 11 – 13, took us to Columbus, Ohio for Fall Board. 22 Illinois Senators were in attendance. Way to show up.*

*September 20, I spun the Big Wheel for the Collinsville Jaycees. The customer laid the money down and I picked it up for the good of the community. Sometimes they win!*

*October 3-5, Peoria, IL for the Illinois Jaycee's hosting of the TOYP and Hall of Fame Induction ceremony at the Embassy Suites. Congratulations to all winners.*

*October 16-19, we hosted the Illinois - Missouri wine weekend in southern Illinois. This is a wonderful time. This year we had three buses: gracious, that's a lot of secrets to keep. Because what happens on the bus stays on the bus!!*

*October 23 – 26, we snuck in a visit to Michigan JCI Senate in Petoskey, MI. You ask, where is Petoskey? AT THE TOP OF THE HAND. Just before the U.P. We joined them for a winery and Fall Color weekend. Thank you to Dan Moellering and his crew for showing us a wonderful time in Petoskey. Some senators looked for Petoskey Stones, some drank wine and some went sightseeing. It was a great weekend.*

*The last weekend of October into November took us to Bardstown KY for the Kentucky Fall Frenzy which never disappoints. Thank you Jenie Altman and your Kentucky senators for a fabulous time. Illinois had a great showing of the flock in Bardstown.*

*I am Proud to announce I have been to each of the 5 states in Region 5!!*

*7/17 - 7/20 OHIO Pig Roast*

*7/24 - 7/27 ILLINOIS Picnic*

*8/15 - 8/17 INDIANA Summer Meeting*

*10/23 - 10/26 MICHIGAN Wine and Color Weekend*

*10/31 – 11/2 KENTUCKY Fall Frenzy*

*November 23 The Illinois Jaycees had their JUMP START meeting at Scheel's in Springfield, IL and asked me to speak. There were several senators in attendance. The Jaycees are in good hands as they transfer leadership from 2025 President Lanna Bartko to 2026 President Megan O'Brien. Lanna has done an outstanding job, and I expect no less from Megan. These ladies are committed.*

*December 6 Christmas Social at the Chesapeake in Springfield – wonderful turn out. We did a "return the favor" with the Springfield Jaycees and the Sangamon County "Toys for Tots" we collected \$90.00 and several toys. Way to go my flock.*

*Continued on Page 2*



## Administrative Vice President



**Maureen K. Niedenthal #67669**  
**Administrative Vice President**  
niedmoe22@gmail.com  
217-274-9858

Happy New Year! I hope all of my Senate friends were able to get together with friends and family over the holidays. I know I appreciated seeing some of our Senators and spouses in Springfield last month at the Chesapeake for a Senate Social.

January 16-18, some of us will be heading down to Melbourne, FL for the US JCI Senate Winter Board Meeting. I enjoy this meeting partly because of the change of weather, but mostly because I get to reconnect with Senate friends. If you've never been to a national meeting, or it's been a while, you should consider adding one to your schedule!

As we look at 2026, I start going through my calendar to figure out when and where the Jaycees and Senators meet again. Super Bowl weekend, February 6 - 8, the Jaycees are hosting their Year-End GA Celebration & LOTS at Holiday Inn Champaign. Rooms are only \$119. We'll have a Senate meeting, an Illinois Jaycee Charitable Foundation meeting, and time to socialize in the hospitality room. It's at the February Senate meeting that 2026-2027 nominations will be made. I'm very excited about this and hope you can attend.

## Management Vice President



**Rod Hollenstine #46073**  
**Management Vice President**  
rjhollen@comcast.net  
217-741-8372

It is that time of year when we reflect on the past and look forward to the future. Please feel free to reach out to any of the Management Team, if you have any questions or need.

Chaplain: **Bev Olson #42473**

Constitution and Bylaws: **Chris Curtis #35440**

Future Directions: **Melodie Ainslie #69200**

Hospitality: **Bill Patterson #47979** and team

Return the Favor: **Karen Helms #57838**

Senatorship Assistance: **Greg Hilleary #43305**

SOAR/Freshman Senators: **Mike Birchler #79421**

Just a reminder if you attend and Return the Favor at any Jaycee project or event, a picture is always appreciated. You can email a copy of picture to **Karen Helms #57838** or myself.

### Important Dates of upcoming events:

**Winter GA: Feb 6-8, 2026** Holiday Inn, Champaign, Illinois

**Region V Spring Fling: March 26-29, 2026** Northfield Inn and Suites, Springfield Illinois.

Let's all have a great new year and enjoy our time with both our Families and fellow Senators.

As President Susie would say: Let's Flamingle, Be Social and Have Fun.

## Secretary



**Christopher Rick #78649**  
**Management Vice President**  
crick10101@aol.com  
847-533-0204

Season's Greetings Illinois JCI Senators!

The new year brings new leadership to all of our local Jaycee organizations. I encourage all of you to introduce yourself to the new officers and let them know that you are available for advice and encourage them to reach out if they need help with anything.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at our Winter meeting held at Holiday Inn Champaign by IHG on February 6 - 8, 2026. Minutes from the Fall Meeting can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to your communications team if you need anything. I can be reached by email to crick10101@aol.com or via phone 847-533-0204. E-Blast publisher **MaryAnn Hilleary #64615** can be reached by email to maryannh63@yahoo.com or via phone 217-497-2947. Social media moderator **Kathy Crick #71017** can be reached by email to kcricker14@sbcglobal.net or via phone 708-254-1892. Forum editor **Joanne Rinaldo #71700** can be reached by email to joanne1232@gmail.com or via phone 847-561-2556. Our webmaster and historian **Ray Ainslie #44136** can be reached at rayainslie@frontiernet.net or via phone 618-495-2673.

## President's Article

*(Continued from page 1)*

December 10 took us to New Baden Jaycees fundraiser Mistletoe Moolah Raffle and Dinner.

I hope you enjoyed your time with family and friends this Holiday season.

Looking ahead TO 2026

**January 15 – 18** I hope to see you for a HOT TIME IN MELBOURNE, Florida for Winter Board at the Hilton Rialto Place. The main hotel is sold out but they have two back up hotels.

**February 6 – 8** in Champaign IL at the Holiday Inn for Winter GA with the Jaycees.

**February 19 – 22** for Mini National in Pigeon Forge, TN, Region 7 at the LeConte Hotel and Conference Center. Theme is "3 RING CIRCUS".

**MARCH 27 -29** Region V Spring Fling hosted by Illinois JCI Senate for our very own **NVP Monty Schroeder #62203**.

I am having so much fun serving as your president, thank you for giving me this opportunity. Come out with us, the IL JCI Senate, we are Flamazing.

Chris tells me a flock of Flamingos is called a "flamboyance" makes sense to me, as we are Flamboyant!!!

Together, let's Flamingle, Be Social, and Have Fun!

**Next Senate Meeting - February 7, 2026**  
**Holiday Inn Champaign by IHG - Champaign, IL**

# Senatorship Assistance Committee

**Greg Hilleary #43305**

Chairman of the Senatorship Assistance Committee  
greg.hilleary@gmail.com

Over the years, there has been Jaycees that made a difference in their local, state and national organization in addition to their communities. These individuals have since roostered out of the organization but were never recognized for their involvement and accomplishments with a JCI Senatorship. The Illinois Senate has established a program that can assist with recognizing those individuals.

As Committee chairperson, I am accepting applications for Senatorship consideration any up through March 1, so approval can be made of the Senatorship and it is completed by June 1.

Nominations may be submitted by any member of the Illinois JCI Senate who shall present such nomination to the committee. All applicants must meet the USA JCI criteria for membership and applications must be completed and signed by the appropriate individuals. Nominees must have been out of the Jaycees for a minimum of five (5) years for consideration.

Should the nominee's chapter still be active within the guidelines of the JCI/USA, they are not eligible for consideration under this program.

The cost of the application may be funded by:

- Region Jaycee Contributions
- Spouse of Nominee
- Illinois Senate Friends
- Illinois JCI Senate Funds

The review committee is made up of five past presidents; myself, **Mark Niedenthal #39701, Marilyn Burton #55106, Robert "Digger" McGraugh #36156, and Denny Birt #37116.** Upon review, Recommendations outlining the breakdown for funding shall be by the majority of the committee and then will be forwarded to the Illinois JCI Senate Executive Committee for approval through a majority vote.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact any member of the committee for assistance. Additional information is located on the [IL JCI Senate's website](#).

## Chaplain's Report

**Bev Olson #42473**

IL Senate Chaplain  
jdobev@gmail.com  
708-373-3710

We have good news from **Jane Wiley #49250** about her grandson, Brody Wiley. He is recovering from stomach surgery, which went well. We wish Brody continued improvement and relief from the pain of surgery. Jane thanks everyone for all the prayers; please continue to keep Brody in your thoughts, and keep the prayers coming!

# Constitution and Bylaws Committee

**Chris Curtis #35440**

Constitution & Bylaws  
clc35440@gmail.com

New Year Greetings fellow Illinois Senators,

This year we are attempting to take a good look at our constitution, bylaws and policy. Some items may be outdated or no longer necessary. Our committee would appreciate thoughts and proposals from our membership and future directions committee.

Thank you **Vanessa Birchler #74430**, for forwarding your observations and suggestions. We are hoping to submit proposals in the Spring Forum to be considered for approval at our April 11th meeting. If you have not reviewed this document in a while it is available on our website at [illinoisjcisenate.org](http://illinoisjcisenate.org) under governance.

Please take a look and forward your feedback to: **Chris Curtis #35440** at [clc35440@gmail.com](mailto:clc35440@gmail.com); **Kay DeGroot #73333** at [kaydsix@yahoo.com](mailto:kaydsix@yahoo.com); or **Brian Ziegler #42479** at [brianziegle8167@comcast.net](mailto:brianziegle8167@comcast.net)

## Senate Liaison to IL Jaycees

**Greg Hilleary #43305**

Senate Liaison to the Illinois Jaycees  
greg.hilleary@gmail.com

It has been a pleasure to serve our 2025, 94<sup>th</sup> Illinois Jaycee State President Lanna Bartko #83072 as the Senate's Liaison to the Illinois Jaycees. I have been asked to continue this roll by our 2026, 95<sup>th</sup> Illinois Jaycee State President Megan O'Brien. My job will be to continue to maintain the best communications possible between our two organizations. I look forward to the opportunity to attend their monthly Board Meetings and other JCI gatherings.

Please let me know if there is any information you would like from the Illinois Jaycees or if there is any information you would like me to share with them.

Please check our bi-monthly E-Blast. I try to bring you the most current information on upcoming Jaycee projects and events for your benefit. Let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Thanks!



**Maureen K. Niedenthal #67669, 2026 IL Jaycee President Megan O'Brien, 2025 IL Jaycee President Lanna Bartko #83072 and IL JCI President Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137**

# 2025 Silent Auction

## Kay DeGroot #73333

Chairman, 2025 Silent Auction  
kaysix@yahoo.com

The 2025 Silent Auction is now history! With your help we raised \$1,233 dollars for the Illinois JCI Senate!

Here are the numbers:

- Of the \$1,233, the breakdown was \$173 in credit cards, \$435 in cash, \$625 in checks.
- Of the \$1,233, the breakdown was \$382 in Buy Now Items, \$806 in Bid Items, and over \$25 in donations and "keep the change".
- There were 73 different items/baskets up for bid or Buy Now.
- There were 30 total donors, 13 donated more than 1 item with 3 donating more than 6 items.
- There were 36 bid numbers given, 7 of those were Jaycees, 1 was a guest and the remaining bidders were Senators.
- The 2024 auction raised \$1,329.

Thank you to EACH and EVERYONE of you that donated, purchased, and assisted in any way in this effort. I appreciate you!

# Senate Foundation Auction

## Roxy Hollenstine #78247

Foundation Auction  
hollenstine@comcast.net

Before you know it, we will all be attending the Region V Spring Fling in Springfield. While it may seem like March is far away it will be here before you know it. With that thought in mind, I would like to encourage everyone to consider making a donation of an auction item. The funds raised by this auction are used for educational scholarship assistance to deserving high school seniors. As always, the financial support the Foundation receives via the auction will be recorded by the Foundation Treasurer .

So please, consider making a donation. I would like to ask anyone considering a donation send me an email letting me know you plan to be participating – specifics of what the donation may be are not needed. We have dedicated space at the hotel already set aside for the auction. Thank you in advance.



Chris Rick #78649, Brian Ziegler #42479, and Ted Kuenzli #32166 working at the Senate Poker Fundraiser

# Fundraising Fun

## Tony Symoniak #66367

Mr. Fundraiser  
jaycees69@msn.com

**IL BASKETBALL SQUARES:** Thank you for everyone that purchased a square or multiple squares. We started on Dec 22 and will finish up on Feb 21. I have chosen 10 games in between. I will post the winners after each game on Facebook and will have a final winners sheet in the Sprint Forum.

**LOTTO TICKETS:** It starts Feb 1. Do you have your tickets?? Due to the next Senate meeting being on Feb 6-7 and this fundraiser starts on Feb 1 I will NOT be selling these at the next meeting. Please contact me at 630-710-1065, [jaycees69@msn.com](mailto:jaycees69@msn.com) or on messenger and I will screenshot your tickets and send them to you. Once again, they are \$50 for a packet of 10 tickets. I take Venmo, Zelle, PayPal.

**MARCH MADNESS SQUARES:** They are \$20 per square. I will select new numbers each round. I would like to try and get all squares sold by Feb 28. The tournament starts on March 19. Here are the payouts:

- **1st Round:** \$5 – Final Score
- **2nd Round:** \$10 – Final Score
- **Sweet 16:** \$15 – Final Score | \$10 – Reverse Score
- **Elite 8:** \$25 – Final Score | \$10 – Reverse Score
- **Final 4:** \$50 – Final Score | \$20 – Reverse Score
- **Championship:** \$100 – Final Score | \$50 – Half-Time Score | \$25 – Final Reverse Score

Payments for March Madness Squares can also be made via Venmo, PayPal, or Zelle.

Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and hope 2026 will be an outstanding year for everyone.

# Happy Holidays!



**Next Senate Meeting - February 7, 2026 - Holiday Inn Champaign by IHG - Champaign, IL**

# IL Jaycees Charitable Foundation

## Kathy Crick #71017

President, IJCF  
kcricker14@sbcglobal.net

On behalf of the Illinois Jaycee Charitable Foundation, I would like to announce the two newest members of the IJCF Hall of Fame inducted in October, **Kate Patterson #52517** and **Jack Teeters #25250**. Thank you to HOF committee members: **Wayne Kiefer #36498**, **Ray Ainslie #44136**, **Denny Birt #37116**, **Norm Hoffman #25676**, **Charlie Meier #42808**, **John Olson #35308** and **Bev Olson #42473**.

## Kate Patterson #52517

Kate joined the Park Forest Jaycee Women in 1980, serving as their President in 1983, and became a member of the Park Forest Jaycees in 1984 and was Chapter President in 1993. Kate served the Illinois JCI Senate as President in 2011–2012. She continued her service as President of the Illinois Jaycee Charitable Foundation from 2018–2021 and as Chief of Staff to the US JCI Senate National President in 2021–2022. Along side her Jaycee leadership, Kate built a distinguished career as a special education teacher and administrator. Her commitment to service extended beyond the classroom and the Jaycees. She managed the Tall Grass Art Association Gallery and School and gave her time to organizations including the Park Forest Cable Commission, Park Forest Girls Softball, and the Park Forest American Legion Auxiliary. She also volunteered as a cuddler in the special care nursery at St. James/Franciscan Hospital.

## Jack Teeters #25250

Jack joined the Kankakee Jaycees in 1974, serving as Chapter President in 1976–1977. During his presidency, he recruited over 120 members, bringing chapter membership to 240, earning recognition as

Outstanding Local President of the Illinois Jaycees. In 1976, In 1977–78, Jack served as Illinois Jaycee State Membership Chairman and was named Outstanding State Chairman. Jack joined the Charleston Masonic Lodge #35 AF & AM and the Valley of the Danville Scottish Rite. He also served on the Children’s Dyslexia Board, played Santa Claus for Shriner’s Hospital, and worked to reassign children from orphanages to homecare. Jack became the Illinois Jaycees’ top recruiter with 1,243 members and received multiple honors including Outstanding Young Men of America, Key Man of the Year, and Speak Up Winner.

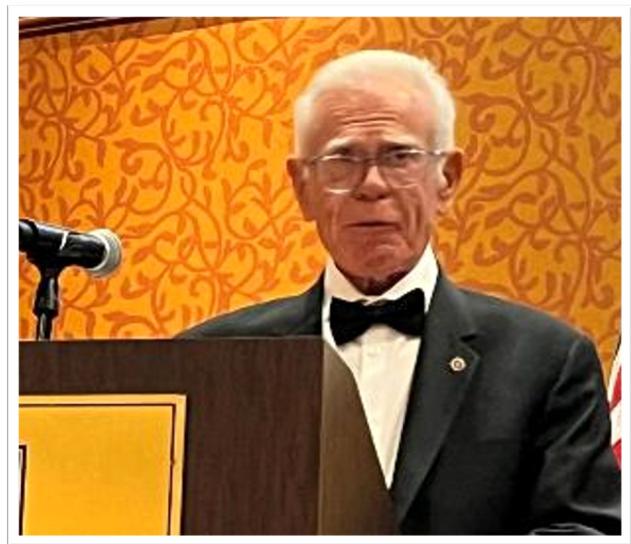
We would also like to thank the family of **Tom Greathouse #60003** for a donation in Tom’s memory of \$20,000 to the Illinois Jaycee Charitable Foundation. Tom was a proud member of the Danville Jaycee. Funds were appropriated to local East Region Chapters to continue their work in their local communities and the Illinois Jaycees to continue with their training programming.

This fall several grants were approved including New Baden Jaycees for their Stuff the Bus project, the Bloomington Normal Jaycees for Bruegala, Springfield Jaycees for their Holiday Lights Parade, the Sterling Rock Falls Jaycees for their Kid Christmas, the Palatine Jaycees for their Kids Shopping Spree, and continued support of the Illinois Jaycees National Convention and the Illinois JCI Senate National Convention. We would also like to welcome two new Founder’s Club members Megan McGaughey and Amber Calvert.

Finally, it’s Scholarship deadline time. The deadline for the IJCF Scholarship (any Illinois high school senior) is January 12th and the deadline for the Roger D. Colbert scholarship (any Illinois high school senior related to an Illinois Jaycee or Senator) is March 1st. Please see the website, [www.ijcf.org](http://www.ijcf.org) for the application or contact **Lori Suprenant #67040** [bsup62@comcast.net](mailto:bsup62@comcast.net) with the questions.



Above: IL JCI Senator **Bill Patterson #47979** accepting **Kate Patterson #52517** HOF plaque from **Wayne Kiefer #36498**.



Right: **HOF Honoree, Jack Teeters #25250**, speaking at TOYP/HOF Banquet.



ILLINOIS JCI SENATE  
October 4, 2025  
Minutes



MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 9:30 AM by President **Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137**

INVOCATION: **Bev Olson #42473**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: All Veterans

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: **Denny Birt #37116**

<b>#32166 Ted Kuenzli</b>	<b>#53585 Jack Ward</b>	<b>#47979 Bill Patterson</b>
<b>#36498 Wayne Keifer</b>	<b>#47910 Chuck McFarland</b>	<b>#30592 Wayne Huelsman</b>
<b>#35308 John D Olson</b>	<b>#59999 Stephanie Pittenger</b>	<b>#51099 Robbie Johnston</b>
<b>#42473 Beverly Olson</b>	<b>#43305 Greg Hilleary</b>	<b>#70364 Lynne McGill</b>
<b>#44136 Ray Ainslie</b>	<b>#62203 Monty Schroder</b>	<b>#64615 MaryAnn Hilleary</b>
<b>#42479 Brian Ziegler</b>	<b>#36156 Robert Digger McGraw</b>	<b>#65005 Judson DeVore</b>
<b>#37116 Denny Birt</b>	<b>#35440 Chris Curtis</b>	<b>#73137 Susie Colbert-Curtis</b>
<b>#39701 Mark Neidenthal</b>	<b>#69200 Melodie Ainslie</b>	
<b>#25676 Norman Hoffman</b>	<b>#55106 Marilyn Burton</b>	

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: **Judson DeVore #65005**

Gary Pittenger Memorial Award was presented to **Norm Hoffman #25676**.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AS AMENDED:

Susie would like to add 8) National Convention 2025 and 9) Summer Picnic 2025 under Admin VP.

**Motion to approve Agenda as amended by Wayne Kiefer #36498, Second by Brian Zielgle #42479. Motion passed.**

SECRETARY'S REPORT - **CHRIS RICK #78649**:

1) Approval of Minutes – Picnic Meeting 2025

**Motion to approve Minutes from the 2024-2025 Picnic Meeting by John D Olson #35308, Second by Ted Kuenzli #32166. Motion passed.**

**Motion to approve Minutes from the 2025-2026 Picnic Meeting by Chris Curtis #35440, Second by Mark Neidenthal #39701. Motion passed.**

2) E-Blast – **MaryAnn Hilleary #64615**: Comes out the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of every month. Please email me.

3) FORUM – **Joanne Rinaldo #71700**: FORUM is delivered 30 days prior to the next meeting. Submission deadline for the next issue is December 15<sup>th</sup>.

4) Social Media – **Kathy Crick #71017**: Try not to post multiple things on the same day. Like your posts.

5) Historian – **Ray Ainslie #44136**: **Larry Stierwalt #22131** gave us some stuff.

6) Website – **Ray Ainslie #44136**: Website has been updated. Let me know if anything needs to be fixed.

**Motion to accept report by Monty Schroder #62203, Second by Stephanie Pittenger #59999. Motion passed.**

TREASURER'S REPORT – **MARYANN HILLEARY #64615**:

2025 Final Budget Report has been amended and will be published in the next FORUM.

**Motion to approve 2026 Budget Report by John D Olson #35308, Second by Chuck McFarland #47910. Motion passed.**

1) Audit Committee – **Marilyn Burton #55106**:

2) Finance Committee – **Wayne Kiefer #36498**:

Will meet with Edward Jones to review investments before the January meeting.

2025 National Convention results are still pending some outstanding checks.

Will add a line item for hosting future conventions.

**Motion to open a second Illinois JCI Senate bank account at Iroquois Federal Savings and Loan. Signers will be MaryAnn Hilleary #64615 and Maureen Niedenthal #67669. First by Wayne Kiefer #36498, Second by Denny Birt #37116. Motion passed.**

3) Membership Info Exchange – **Kathy Crick #71017**: If you have any updates, please send them to me.

4) Fundraising

a) Birdies for Charity – **Wayne Huelsmann #30592**: Distribution date is October 9<sup>th</sup>. 44 participants \$1710 pledged. 2102 birdies this year. **Phyllis Bowers #51430** was closest by 4 birdies.

- b) LOTTO – **Beverly Olson #42473**: Tickets are \$5.00 each or \$50/10
- c) Illinois Basketball Pool: Coming soon.
- d) Poker – **Chris Rick #78649**: Poker was on 9/7. Thanks to **Brian Ziegler #42479**, **Ted Kuenzli #32166**, and **Bill Patterson #47979** for volunteering. Profit of \$1025.25 after all expenses paid.
- e) Products – **Heather Ulrich #72836**: No report.
- f) Raise Right (Gift Cards) – **Vanessa Birchler #74430**: Numbers in the budget do not include September. Please remember Raise Right for your holiday gift giving needs.
- g) Silent Auction – **Kay DeGroot #73333**: Held at the Fall Meeting on October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Closes at 4:00 PM. We have many donated lots available for bid.

**Motion to accept report by Marilyn Burton #55106, Second by Karen Helms #57838. Motion passed.**

**ADMINISTRATIVE VP REPORT – MAUREEN NIEDENTHAL #67669:**

- 1) Camp New Hope – **Marsha DeVore #67330**: 11 Senators went to Camp New Hope in August to help Illinois Jaycees. Camp New Hope has an Amazon wish list if you want to donate something.
- 2) IL/MO Wine Tour – **Melodie Ainslie #69200** and **Ray Ainslie #44136**: Oct 16-18. 38 have signed up. We have six wineries, one brewery, and a festival on the tour. Please stay after the meeting to discuss details.
- 3) Onto – **Robbie Johnston #51099**: KY Fall Frenzy 10/31 – 11/1.
- 4) JCI Liason **Greg Hilleary #43305**: It has been interesting to join the Illinois Jaycees meetings. Illinois Jaycees will have a Senatorship presentation before their lunch at 11:30 AM.
- 5) Spring Fling 2026 – **Rod Hollenstine #46073**: Northfield Inn 3/27/2026–3/28/2026. Registration forms are available in the back. There will be a big Hospitality room.
- 6) Summer Picnic 2026 Carlyle – **Vanessa Birchler #74430**: Cabins are full but we still have rooms. We have ramped up planning and expect final details by the January meeting. We are looking at a dam tour and boat rides for new activities.
- 7) Wreaths Across America / Flags for Fallen Veterans – **Karen Voshel #62305**: Wreaths are \$17 plus \$5 to the cemetery. Deadline to purchase: 11/28/2025. Group Code is FL1122. Please add Illinois after your name.
- 8) National Convention 2025 – **Maureen Niedenthal #67669**: Thanks for your help. We are still working on the final details. Some checks are still outstanding. Income was \$103,719.17. Expenses are about 102k. We were able to return the startup money to the Illinois JCI Senate. Profits are close to 2k. Books will close around 12/1/2025.
- 9) Summer Picnic 2025 – **Rod Hollenstine #46073**: Thanks for your help. We had 37 for early hospitality, 94 for Bar Burgers, 103 for dinner. Thanks to the 10 volunteers from Menard County and Springfield Jaycees.

**Motion to accept report by Mark Neidenthal #39701, Second by Lynne McGill #70364. Motion passed.**

**MANAGEMENT VP REPORT – ROD HOLLENSTINE #46073:**

- 1) Chaplain's Report – **Bev Olson #42473**: Thanks to **MaryAnn Hilleary #64615** for the Family updates in the Eblast. Please contact me with news and make sure to let me know if it is okay to publish.
- 2) Constitution and Bylaws – **Chris Curtis #35440**: Committee is myself, **Kay DeGroot #73333**, and **Brian Ziegler #42479**. We have found some outdated stuff but are still seeking feedback from members and from Future Directions.
- 3) Future Directions – **Melodie Ainslie #69200**: Myself, **Gabrielle Cress #78691**, **Eric Hiatt #81434**, **Kathy Crick #71017**, and **Tony Symoniak #66367**, plus two openings. We may have to start paying for the meeting and hospitality rooms. Some hotels no longer allow hospitality.
- 4) Hospitality – **Bill Patterson #47979**, **Karen Helms #57838**, and **Chris Curtis #35440**. Hospitality last night was fabulous. Lunch will be served immediately after the meeting.
- 5) Return the Favor – **Karen Helms #57838**: Send information to Senate57838@gmail when you are helping Jaycee chapters
- 6) Senatorship Assistance – **Greg Hilleary #43305**: No report.
- 7) SOAR / Freshman Senators – **Mike Birchler #79421**: Welcome packet was recently updated.

**Motion to accept report by Kay DeGroot #73333, Second by Terry Kolaz #68698. Motion passed.**

REGION DIRECTOR REPORTS: No report

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**ILLINOIS JAYCEES CHARITABLE FOUNDATION – Kathy Crick #71017**: We want to celebrate **Bill Patterson #47979** and Megan McGaughey from the Palatine Jaycees for joining the Illinois Jaycee Charitable Foundation. We awarded grants to New Baden, Springfield, Bloomington-Normal, and \$540 to the Illinois JCI Senate for the 2025 National Convention. Scholarship submission deadline is January 17, 2026.

**US JC Foundation: Wayne Kiefer #36498**: 26 Named scholarships have been increased to \$2000. 24 other scholarships remain at \$1500. 10 vocations scholarships are \$1000.

50/50 RAFFLE – **Robbie Johnston #51099**: **Marilyn Burton #55106** wins \$68.00

PRESIDENTIAL SWEEPSTAKES RAFFLE – **Greg Hilleary #43305**: Tickets are \$10/each or \$50/6.  
**Bill Patterson #47979**, **Karen Helms #57838**, and **Robbie Johnston #51099** won tickets.

HIGH/LOW SENATE NUMBER AWARDS – **Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137**: **Norm Hoffman #25676** and **Joanne Ziegler #81800**.

ILLINOIS JAYCEES 94<sup>TH</sup> STATE PRESIDENT – **Lanna Bartko #83072**: Illinois JCI Senate has been a huge supporter of The Outstanding Young Persons of Illinois. We are plus 37 to 43 for the year. Next GA will be January 30<sup>th</sup> through February 1<sup>st</sup>. Illinois Jaycees are handing out Presidential Challenge Coins this year. I would like to present one to **Vanessa Birchler #74430**.

US JCI SENATE REGION V VP – **Monty Schroder #62203**: Thanks to Illinois for all of your support at Region V events. Please remember to get your tickets for the Bahamas raffle.

SPECIAL GUESTS COMMENTS:

**Nikki Schall #81530** JCI Chief Executive Assistant To The President (CEATTP).

JCI USA NVP Chris Solin says Illinois Jaycees is currently the top growth state but Montana is gaining on us.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD – **Judson DeVore #65005**: No report

GOOD OF THE ORDER: **Stephanie Pittenger #59999** says thank you for the 2025 National Convention week.  
**Mark Neidenthal #39701** says the family of **Thomas Greathouse #60003** donated \$20,000 to the IJCF for the Illinois Jaycees in Tom's memory.

PRESIDENTS COMMENTS: **Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137**: Don't forget to check the auction this afternoon.

**Motion to Adjourn at 11:20 AM by Ted Kuenzli #32166, Second by Denny Birt #37116. Motion passed.**  
ADJOURN WITH JAYCEE CREED – HIGHEST SENATOR: **Joanne Ziegler #81800**

Respectfully submitted by Chris Rick #78649, Illinois JCI Senate Secretary.

# Happy Holidays!



*IL JCI Senators supporting Jaycees at Jaycee Jumpstart Training held in Springfield. From Left to Right: **Maureen Niedenthal #67669**, **Stephanie Martin #84278**, **Lanna Bartko #83072**, **Rod Hollenstine #46073**, **Terry Kolaz #68698**, **Greg Hilleary #43305**, **Megan O'Brien**, **Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137**, **Chris Curtis #35440**, **Mark Niedenthal #39701** and **MaryAnn Hilleary #64615**.*



2025-2026 Budget  
Approved on 07/26/2025

as of  
12-15-2025

Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137, President  
MaryAnn Hilleary #64615, Treasurer

INCOME								
	July - Sept.	Oct. - Dec.	Jan. - Mar.	Apr. - June	Total	Budget	Variance	
	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr				
Balance Forward	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,130.00	\$5,130.00	
<b>Dues</b>								
IL JCI Membership Dues - Annual (55 x 30)	\$275.00	\$580.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$855.00	\$1,650.00	\$795.00	
IL JCI Membership Dues - Life (3 x 250)	\$300.00	\$1,040.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,340.00	\$750.00	-\$590.00	
<b>Fundraisers</b>								
50/50 Drawings	\$420.00	\$135.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$555.00	\$360.00	-\$195.00	
Birdies for Charity	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,400.00	
Illinois Basketball Squares	\$0.00	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$750.00	\$2,500.00	\$1,750.00	
Lotto Raffle	\$0.00	\$700.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$700.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,300.00	
March Madness Pool	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	
Poker	\$2,495.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,495.00	\$15,000.00	\$12,505.00	
Raise Right	\$926.92	\$882.76	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,809.68	\$2,000.00	\$190.32	
Silent Auction	\$0.00	\$1,233.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,233.00	\$1,500.00	\$267.00	
<b>Non-Fundraisers</b>								
Camp New Hope	\$0.00	\$78.20	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$78.20	\$640.00	\$561.80	
Hospitality	\$0.00	\$935.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$935.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,065.00	
IL/MO Wine Tour	\$2,625.00	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,775.00	\$2,400.00	-\$375.00	
Misc. Income	\$0.56	\$10.43	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10.99	\$0.00	-\$10.99	
Newsletter Support - Forum	\$63.00	\$38.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$101.00	\$200.00	\$99.00	
Products	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	
Spring Fling 2026	\$0.00	\$1,260.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,260.00	\$2,500.00	\$1,240.00	
<b>US JCI</b>								
Newsletter Support - Mentors	\$148.00	\$148.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$296.00	\$280.00	-\$16.00	
US JCI Presidential Sweepstakes	\$310.00	\$105.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$415.00	\$700.00	\$285.00	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$7,663.48</b>	<b>\$8,045.39</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$15,708.87</b>	<b>\$44,510.00</b>	<b>\$28,801.13</b>	



Above: New Senate presentation to Springfield Jaycee **Jessica Morrison #84575** along with **Jessi Neighbors #82669**, **Stephanie Martin #84278** and **Lanna Bartko #83072**.  
Right: Freshman Senator Toast at Fall GA with **Stephanie Martin #84278**, **IL JCI Senate President Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137**, and **Joann Ziegler #81800**.



2025-2026 Budget  
Approved on 07/26/2025

as of  
12-15-2025

Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137, President  
MaryAnn Hilleary #64615, Treasurer

**EXPENSES**

	July - Sept.	Oct. - Dec.	Jan. - Mar.	Apr. - June			
	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Total	Budget	Variance
<b>Dues</b>							
Lifetime Membership	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$750.00	\$750.00
US JCI Membership Dues (733 x 7)	\$742.00	\$1,582.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,324.00	\$5,130.00	\$2,806.00
<b>Fundraisers</b>							
50-50 Drawings	\$210.00	\$68.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$278.00	\$200.00	-\$78.00
Birdies for Charity	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Illinois Basketball Squares	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Lotto Raffle	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
March Madness Pool	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Poker	\$1,469.75	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,469.75	\$8,000.00	\$6,530.25
Raise Right	\$828.10	\$200.29	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,028.39	\$1,000.00	-\$28.39
Silent Auction	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Non-Fundraisers</b>							
Camp New Hope	\$0.00	\$78.20	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$78.20	\$640.00	\$561.80
Hospitality	\$0.00	\$376.63	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$376.63	\$2,000.00	\$1,623.37
IL/MO Wine Tour	\$0.00	\$2,696.80	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,696.80	\$2,400.00	-\$296.80
Products	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
Spring Fling 2026	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
<b>Operating</b>							
Forum Expenses	\$232.39	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$232.39	\$1,000.00	\$767.61
Misc. Expenses	\$2.79	\$29.79	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$32.58	\$0.00	-\$32.58
Name Tags - New Life Members/New Members	\$48.79	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$48.79	\$55.00	\$6.21
Name Tags - Officers	\$73.25	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$73.25	\$75.00	\$1.75
Paper	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Postage	\$78.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$78.00	\$250.00	\$172.00
Senate Directory	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
Website	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
<b>Presidential</b>							
Presidential Awards	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Presidential Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
<b>Sponsorships</b>							
Illinois Members Officer Support	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$0.00	-\$250.00
Misc. Sponsorships	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
Region V	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$100.00	\$87.50
Regions Party	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$0.00
US JCI Foundation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
US JCI Presidential Sweepstakes Prize	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$0.00
<b>US JCI</b>							
National Guest Expense	\$1,106.72	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,106.72	\$1,500.00	\$393.28
Newsletter Support - Mentors	\$148.00	\$148.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$296.00	\$280.00	-\$16.00
US JCI Presidential Sweepstakes Tickets	\$310.00	\$105.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$415.00	\$700.00	\$285.00
Balance to 2026-2027	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,130.00	\$5,130.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$5,612.29</b>	<b>\$5,384.71</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$10,997.00</b>	<b>\$44,510.00</b>	<b>\$33,513.00</b>

Other Funds	Designee	Amount	Balance as of
Contingency	Wayne Kiefer	\$7,500.00	09-26-2025
Illinois JCI Convention 2025	Brian Zeigle	\$1,885.03	12-12-2025
Life Funds	Wayne Kiefer	\$165,410.57	09-26-2025
Lost Senators (Savings) - US Bank	MaryAnn Hilleary	\$4,576.34	11-26-2025
General Funds Checkbook - IFSL	MaryAnn Hilleary	\$4,121.46	12-15-2025
General Funds Checkbook - US Bank	MaryAnn Hilleary	\$13,150.77	12-15-2026



# Flamingle at the Lake

Mariner's Village - 1 Resort Drive, Carlyle, Illinois

July 23-26, 2026

Hosted by South by Southwest Region

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Senate #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Senate #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Registration	# _____	@ \$75 =	_____
Full Child Registration	# _____	@ \$25 =	_____
Thursday Early Hospitality	# _____	@ \$20 =	_____
Friday Only	# _____	@ \$35 =	_____
Saturday Only	# _____	@ \$55 =	_____
Bar Burgers	# _____	@ \$20 =	_____
<b>TOTAL:</b>			_____

Saturday Dinner: Pork Steak # \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken # \_\_\_\_\_

Golf \*\*\*TO BE ANNOUNCED AND PAID DIRECTLY TO GOLF COURSE\*\*\*

Room Accommodations: All room reservations made directly through hotel – (618) 594-7666

Room Rates: 1 Queen \$114 +tax/night – 2 Queen \$134 + tax/night

Cabins \$272 + tax/night

**GROUP CODE: JCI**

Good through June 12, 2026

Mail registration to:  
 Vanessa Birchler #74430  
 106 N. Hanover  
 Okawville, IL 62271  
 618-698-6907  
[Vbirchler09@gmail.com](mailto:Vbirchler09@gmail.com)

**Make Check payable to:**

**Gateway Region Senate**

Stay up to date by joining the Facebook  
 Event: Illinois JCI Senate Picnic 2026



## Senators laying Wreaths Across Illinois to honor fallen soldiers

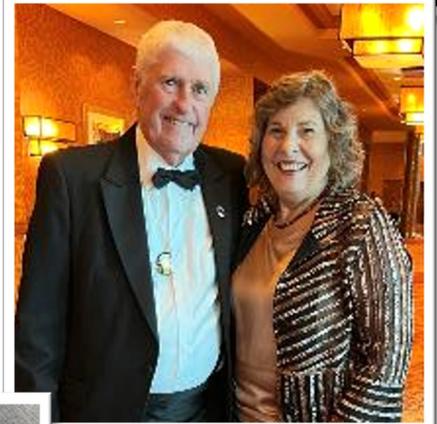
*Top Left Photo: Chris Stierwalt #52938, Mark Niedenthal #39701, Maureen K. Niedenthal #67669, and Mark Beynon #42789*

*Top Right Photo: Chris Stierwalt #52938 and Mark Niedenthal #39701 carrying the wreaths*

*Center Photo: Laying wreaths at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery included IL and IN Senators along with American Legion Post 1198 members, Auxiliary members and volunteers. Third from Left is IN JCI #77787 Senator Mike Pouch; Center is IL Senator Bill Patterson and Far right is IN Senator #72126 Tracie Pouch*

*Bottom Photo: Ray Ainslie #44136, Melodie Ainslie #69200 and Wayne Huelsmann #30592*

## Let's Flamingle, Be Social and Have Fun.



*Top: Past Illinois JCI Senate Presidents who attended Fall GA.*

*2nd Row: Left Photo: Jack Ward #53585, Donna Ward #53588, Bev Olson #42473 and John "JDO" Olson #35308; Middle Photo: Chris Curtis #35440 and Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137. Right Photo: Norm Hoffman #25676 and Linda Hoffman.*

*3rd Row: Left Photo: Marilyn Burton #55106 and her boyfriend, John; Middle Photo: Monty Schroeder #62203 and Sherrie Schroeder #FS 52. Right: Ray Ainslie #44136 serving as driver during winery tour.*

*Bottom Photo: Marsha DeVore #67330 and Judson DeVore #65005*

# Forum Patrons

*Thanks to all the Senators that make a donation to the Forum at the Senate meetings by contributing a \$1. It helps offset the printing and mailing costs for Senators who have not signed up for email versions.*

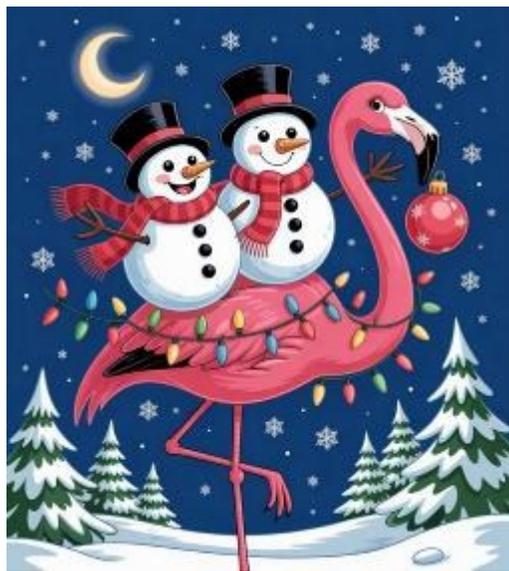
## 7/26/2025 Meeting

Melodie Ainslie #69200  
Ray Ainslie #44136  
Donna Baker #67041  
Terry Barker #40979  
Denny Birt #37116  
Phyllis Bowers #51430  
Jon Bruner #58932  
Jenny Bruner #64688  
Marilyn Burton #55106  
Jon Carls #54041  
Noah Christian  
Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137  
Maxine Cooper #68012  
Russ Cooper #4638  
Chris Curtis #35440  
Kay DeGroot #73333  
Judson DeVore #65005  
Marsha DeVore #67330  
Susan Hatcher #58143  
Karen Helms #57838  
Tom Hendrix #37317  
Eric Hiatt #81434  
Greg Hilleary #43305  
MaryAnn Hilleary #64615  
Kim Hubbell #68729  
Wayne Huelsmann #30592  
Steve Kesegi #53934  
Margie Kiefer #FR 29  
Wayne Kiefer #36498  
Ron Kimmet #43520  
Ted Kuenzli #32166  
Sid LeGrand #46004  
Chuck McFarlin #47910  
Lynne McGill #70364  
Digger McGraugh #36156  
Paul Myers #72173  
Jessi Neighbors #82669  
Mark Niedenthal #39701  
Maureen Niedenthal #67669

Dawna Norfleet #61999  
Larry Norfleet #60771  
Bev Olson #42473  
John Olson #35308  
Bill Patterson #47979  
Stephanie Pittenger #59999  
Scott Rayho #67912  
Chris Rick #78649  
Monty Schroeder #62203  
Sherrie Schroeder #FR 52  
Bruce Sostak #52655  
Christopher Stierwalt #52938  
Larry D. Stierwalt #22131  
Lori Tomlin #62797  
Chris Travis #55435  
Joan Travis #762101  
Amanda Turner #65613  
Karen Voshel #62305  
Paul Weymouth #69653  
Ruby Weymouth #67303  
Jane Wiley #49250  
Brian Witte #68535  
Peg Witte

## 10/4/2025 Meeting

Melodie Ainslie #69200  
Ray Ainslie #44136  
Kevin Ankenbrand #63771  
Denny Birt #37116  
Marilyn Burton #55106  
Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137  
Kathy Crick #71017  
Chris Curtis #35440  
Kay DeGroot #73333  
Judson DeVore #65005  
Marsha DeVore #67330  
Karen Helms #57838  
Eric Hiatt #81434  
Greg Hilleary #43305  
MaryAnn Hilleary #64615  
Norm Hoffman #25676  
Rod Hollenstine #46073  
Roxy Hollenstine #78247  
Wayne Huelsmann #30592  
Wayne Kiefer #36498  
Terry Kolaz #68698  
Ted Kuenzli #32166  
Chuck McFarlin #47910  
Lynne McGill #70364  
Digger McGraugh #36156  
Jessi Neighbors #82669  
Mark Niedenthal #39701  
Maureen Niedenthal #67669  
John "JDO" Olson #35308  
Bill Patterson #47979  
Stephanie Pittenger #59999  
Chris Rick #78649  
Monty Schroeder #62203  
Sherrie Schroeder #FS 52  
Karen Voshel #62305  
Donna Ward #53588  
Jack Ward #53585  
Brian Ziegler #42479  
Joann Ziegler #81800





Top Left: Kentucky Fall Frenzy: **MaryAnn Hilleary #64615, Mark Niedenthal #39701, Bev Olson #42473, John "JDO" Olson #35308, Linda Hoffman, Norm Hoffman #25676, Greg Hilleary #43305, Larry Norfleet 60771, Chris Curtis #35440, Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137, Maureen Niedenthal #67669, Bill Patterson #47979, Sherrie Schroeder #FS 52, Monty Schroeder #62203 and US national Senate president Bruce Sostak #52655.**

Pictures from Fall Winery Tour in beautiful the Petoskey, Michigan:

Photo Below: **Monty Schroeder #62203, Chris Curtis #35440, Maureen Niedenthal #67669, Mark Niedenthal #39701, Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137 and Sherrie Schroeder #FS 52**

Bottom Photo: Group photo include many Senators and friends at a Michigan Winery

## The Jaycee Creed

WE BELIEVE:

That faith in God gives meaning and purpose to human life;

That the brotherhood of man transcends the sovereignty of nations;

That economic justice can best be won by free men through free enterprise;

That government should be of laws rather than of men;

That earth's great treasure lies in human personality;

And that service to humanity is the best work of life.

**-C. William Brownfield #19**

